

REMARKS

The applicant has carefully considered the Office action dated March 29, 2004 and the references it cites. By way of this Response, claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8, and 10-16 have been amended and claim 2 has been cancelled without prejudice to its further prosecution. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the undersigned has overcome the objection to the drawings raised by the Office action by amending the specification to replace the errored reference numeral "2a" with the correct reference numeral "200." Therefore, the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

The Office has acknowledged that claims 2-7 would be patentable if rewritten in independent form. In keeping with this conclusion, applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the recitations of objected-to claim 2, and has re-written objected-to claims 4 and 6 in independent form. Therefore, as acknowledged in the Office action, all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 28, 2004